

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 8-11, 16-18, and 21, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as allegedly being anticipated by Mustajarva '782 (U.S. Patent No. 6,661,782). The Examiner also indicated that claims 2-7, 12-15, and 19-20 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants disagrees with the Examiner's rejections. However, solely in an effort to expedite the examination of the present application, by this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 12, and 19 and have amended independent claims 1, 11, and 18 by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claims 2, 12, and 19, as indicated by the Examiner. In addition, claim 20 has been rewritten into independent form that includes similar patentable subject matter.

As such, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3-11, and 13-21 are presented for examination of which claims 1, 11, 18, and 20 are independent. Because, claims 1, 11, 18, and 20 now contain allowable subject matter, as noted by the Examiner, the withdrawal of the associated rejections are respectfully requested. Furthermore, because claims 3-10, claims 13-17, and claims 21 depend from claims 1, 11, 18, respectively, claims 3-10, claims 13-17, and claims 21 are also allowable by virtue of dependency as well as for their additional recitations. Accordingly, each of presented claims 1, 3-11, and 13-21 are allowable.

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants' Representative remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the Undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number **03-3975**. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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